THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) 'Panika' is already specified as a Scheduled Tribe in relation to certain districts of Madhya Pradesh, and 'Pasi' is specified as a Scheduled Caste in Gujarat. There is no proposal to include 'Chain' and Layah' in the Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe lists in relation to to the State of Bihar.

(e) Does not arise.

Treatment of Infertility

3678. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether ICAR has prepared a effective medicine for treatment of infertility problem in cows and buffaloes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the measures adopted by the Government for treatment of infertility in cows and buffaloes;

(d) whether the Government have conducted any survey in the country to identify the number of infertile cows and buffaloes; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Ministry of Agriculture, have a Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Systematic Control of Livestock Dieseases of National Importance" which has a component for control of infertility, sterility and abortions, being implemented by the States on 50:50 sharing basis.

(e) Does not arise.

[English]

New Variety of Rice

3679. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Super rice variety being evolved at the Manila-based International Rice Research Institute would yield 10 to 12 tonnes per hectare;

(b) whether the special variety of rice would be ready for the commercial production only after seven years from now;

(c) if so, whether the Government are making any special attempts to expedite the research process so that the commercial production might start at an early date; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) It is hoped that the new super rice variety being evolved by the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), Manila would raise the potential yield of rice by 20-25%. This may workout to around 10 tonnes per hectare since the potential yield of the existing varieties is estimated around 7-8 tonnes/ha.

(b) It may take 5-8 years to develop such a variety.

(c) and (d). IRRI has its own research priorities and its activities are not regulated by the Indian Government. However, ICAR scientists are also working on development of similar type of varieties and are collaborating with IRRI in this respect.

Patents of Products

3680. SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether by giving protection to intellectual property rights, India can earn $ 30 billion in genetic products;

(b) if so, furnish the details of fresh initiatives taken/ proposed and short term and long term strategies finalised for strengthening drug sector to achieve commanding position in the global market;

(c) the impact of policy changes in the drug sector during the past three years and details of fresh policy initiatives under consideration; and

(d) the details of steps taken to encourage R and D efforts in Drug Sector and impact thereof along with the further fresh initiatives under consideration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) The international generic market i.e. market of drugs which are off-patent is available even presently. It will continue to grow with the expiry of patents and, it has no linkage with the status of intellectual property rights in the country.

(b) to (d). With the opening up of economy and liberalisation effected in licensing policy, import policy and tariff matters, necessary amendments have been effected in Drug Policy, 86 through modifications announced in September, 1994, followed by the Drug (Prices Control) Order, 1995. Various incentives have been provided to give impetus to research and development which has assumed greater importance in view of world trade scenario. Challenges faced, therefore, include sustaining indigenous industry through vigorous R and D efforts and making it internationally cost effective in bulk drug production.